

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 07334 051653Z

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 SS-15 /035 W

-----051921Z 019300 /50

P 051600Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4397

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 7334

SECSTATE PASS COMMERCE

FOR SECRTY KREPS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, ETEL, IT

SUBJ: VISIT OF MINISTER OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS VITTORINO
COLOMBO

REF.: (A) ROME 2983 (B) ROME 4415 (C) ROME 4932 (D) STATE 80923

(E) AMBASSADOR GARDNER/ASST SECR. JAZINOWSKI TELCON APRIL 22

(F) MOORE (USDOC)/HEIKENEN TELCON MAY 4

1. EMBASSY CONVEYED MESSAGE PER REFERENCE F, NAMELY, THAT SECRETARY KREPS ABLE TO SEE MINISTER COLOMBO 5 P.M. MAY 11. HOWEVER, LEAD TIME FOR APPOINTMENT, WHICH ALLOWED BARELY ONE WEEK (4 WORKING DAYS) FROM TIME MESSAGE RECEIVED TO TIME OF APPOINTMENT IN WASHINGTON, PROVZD UNREALISTIC FOR MISSION OF THIS NATURE, WHICH WOULD HAVE CONSISTED OF MINISTER, HIS PRINCIPAL DEPUTY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, 2-3 EXPERTS FROM THE SUPERIOR TECHNICAL COUNCIL, AN EXPERT FROM THE ITALIAN MESSAGE-SWITCHING PROJECT, AND ONE OR TWO TOP EXPERTS FROM ITALIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY. SINCE MAY 11 IS ONLY TIME SECRETARY KREPS CAN FIT MISSION INTO SHCHEDULE, AND NO ALTERNATIVE ACCEPTABLE DURING WEEK MAY 17 OR THEREABOUTS AS EMBASSY HAD SUGGESTED, OR LATER THIS MONTH (REF F), THE MINISTER'S OFFICE REGRETFULLY AD-
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VISES EMBASSY THAT MINISTER MUST POSTPONE VISIT.

2. EMBASSY WISHES TO RE-EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE OF THIS TYPE MISSION. MINISTER COLOMBO AND LEADERS OF SOME ITALIAN FIRMS WHICH NUMBER AMONG MOST ADVANCED COMPANIES IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS WORLD WERE, AND CONTINUE TO BE, VERY SERIOUS ABOUT THIS MISSION. THEIR MAIN OBJECTIVE IS CLEAR: TO MEET FACE-TO-FACE TOP U.S. GOVERN-

MENTAL COUNTERPARTS IN ORDER TO SET A FRAMEWORK TO ENSURE THAT SOMETHING CONCRETE COMES OUT OF THEIR TALKS ABOUT RECEIPROCAL COLLABORATION WITH U.S. INDUSTRY IN AREA OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY. THE FACT THAT THEY DEAL IN PROJECTS INVOLVING LARGE CAPTIAL OUTLAYS BY GOVERNMENT OF ITALY, OPEC COUNTRIES, AND DEVELOPING-COUNTRY MARKETS WOULD SEEM TO MERIT THE ATTENTION OF U.S. POLICY MAKERS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING OUR SHARE OF EXPORT MARKETS AND JOB-CREATING EFFECTS THEREOF. IN THIS CASE, MINISTRY'S OFFICE POINTEDLY NOTED THAT MINISTER COLOMBO AND HIS EXPERTS HAD NO DIFFICULTY IN ARRANGING CABINTE LEVEL ENTREE TO BRITISH INDUSTRY DURING RECENT VISIT.

3. MINISTER'S OFFICE INDICATES THAT IT WOULD BE WILLING TO RESUSCITATE THIS MISSION SOMETIME IN JUNE, BUT ASSURANCE OF A 2-3 WEEK LEAD TIME FOR WASHINGTON AND U.S. APPOINTMENTS WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR PROGRAM THAT MISSION MERITS. IN VIEW EMBASSY'S EFFORTS SINCE LATE FEBRUARY TO INDUCE HIGH-LEVEL TREATMENT THIS MISSION, WE WOULD NEED ASSURANCE OF SECRETARY KREPS WILLINGNESS RECEIVE MISSION WITH, SAY, TWO ALTERNATIVE DATES IN JUNE, BEFORE UNDERTAKING FURTHER EFFORT.

4. IN MEANTIME, DOWN-GRADED GROUP OF TECHNICIANS ARE PLANNING VISIT ROCKWELL/COLLINS FACILITIES IN DALLAS, FOR WHICH USDOC ASSISTANCE WILL NOT BE NECESSARY. SCOPE OF THIS GROUP, HOWEVER, IS NOT IN SAME LEAGUE WITH COLOMBO MISSION WHICH WANTED EXPLORE COLLABORATION WITH US INDUSTRY ON MAJOR SCALE IN THIRD WORLD MARKETS, AS SPELLED OUT IN SUCCESSIVE REFTELS. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ITINERARY, MINISTERIAL VISITS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 05-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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